

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 BIB-01 /074 W

-----022004 121955Z /64

R 121417Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3225

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SOFIA 1500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PROP, BU, FR

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN TREATMENT OF KOSTOV DEFECTION CASE

1. BULGARIAN MEDIA HAVE BEGUN CARRYING EXTENSIVE COMMENT ON CASE OF FORMER BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY (BTA) CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS, VLADIMIR KOSTOV, WHO APPARENTLY HAS ASKED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF AND FAMILY. COMMENT HINTS BROADLY THAT KOSTOV AND FAMILY HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY FRENCH SECURITY SERVICES, ACTING AT THE INSTIGATION OF SINISTER FORCES WHO AIM TO OVERTURN THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, AND THAT FRENCH FAILURE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH GOB REPRESENTATIVES OR KOSTOV'S PARENTS SUGGESTS KOSTOV MAY HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY BRUTALIZED.

2. IN ADDITION TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, 8 PM TELEVISION NEWS JULY 11 STATED THAT BULGARIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN PARIS HAD CALLED AT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY JULY 4, 5 AND 6 TO DISCUSS KOSTOV CASE, BUT THAT MEETING REQUESTED BY BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER STILL HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE "OWING TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND CONTROL OF THE BULGARIAN SIDE." MEANWHILE IN SOFIA, TELECAST CONTINUED, FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMONED ON JULY 5 BY
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DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, ON JULY 7 BY FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, AND JULY 8 AND 9 BY HEAD OF MFA FOURTH DEPARTMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV WAS CITED AS HAVING "ONCE AGAIN, IN MOST EXPLICIT TERMS, URGED CLARIFICATION OF INCIDENT AS WELL AS (ASKED) FOR ARRANGEMENT OF MEETING BETWEEN VLADIMIR KOSTOV AND HIS FAMILY." ON JULY 11, FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS AGAIN SUMMONED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

AND GIVEN FORMAL PROTEST. ONLY AT THIS MEETING, ACCORDING TO BULGARIAN TELEVISION, DID FRENCH AMBASSADOR STATE THAT KOSTOV AND HIS WIFE AND SON HAD REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN FRANCE AND DID NOT WISH TO SEE ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF BULGARIAN GOVT OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY.

3. TELEVISION COMMENTATOR DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS LAST POINT, CONCLUDING WITH FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH ALSO APPEARED IN PRINT IN TODAY'S PARTY ORGAN RABOTNICHESKO DELO: "WHY IS IT THAT FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMS OF KOSTOV'S DECISION SO LATE" IF REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM WAS ACTUALLY MADE ON JUNE 27 AS STATED BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE? "COULD IT BE ADMITTED THAT PEOPLE IN GOOD SHAPE WOULD REFUSE TO MEET THEIR PARENTS WHO TRAVELLED TO FRANCE ESPECIALLY FOR THAT MEETING?" COULD THE REASON BE THAT "CERTAIN CIRCLES, WITH A VIEW OF TRAINING THEM FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY AGAINST BULGARIA" ARE STILL SUBJECTING THE KOSTOV'S TO VARIOUS "PRESSURES AND TESTS?"
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770247-1201
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770766/aaaacfoh.tel
Line Count: 81
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Litigation History:
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